

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 H-01 SSM-03 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CCO-00 /082 W

-----129023 260143Z /73

R 250515Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO USDEL SECRETARY IN JERUSALEM

INFO SECCSTATE WASHDC 3626

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0378

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SECTO 1035

1. ON JAN 22 AT AIRPORT TO ATTEND FAREWELL CEREMONEY
FOR SOMALI PRESIDENT MOHAMED SIAD BARRE, I HAD

OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK BRIEFLY WITH FONMIN ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ ON CURRENT STATE OF JERUSALEM NEGOTIATIONS. DRAWING HEAVILY ON REFTTEL, I EMPHASIZED PRESENT SITUATION CALLED FOR CALM AS WELL AS REALIZATION NEGOTIATING PROCESS WAS NOT GOING TO BE AN EASY ONE.

2. ASNAJ ANSWERED IN IMPASSIONED IF NOT ANGRY MANNER BY STATING THAT SADAT BEING "MOCKED" BY U.S. AND THAT IF U.S. NOT WILLING TO "SHOULDER ITS RESPONSIBILITIES," SADAT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE. ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT ARAB PUBLIC OPINION IS NOW BECOMING CONVINCED U.S. IS NOT PREPARED TO PUT PRESSURE ON ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL ISRAELI-OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND THAT WITHOUT RETURN OF ALL THESE TERRITORIES THERE WOULD NEVER BE PEACE IN AREA. ASNAJ POINT OUT SOVIETS AND THEIR FRIENDS IN AREA ARE NOW SAYING "WE TOLD YOU SO."

3. ASNAJ CONCLUDED THAT IF THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE IS LOST, THE ARAB WILL HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO TURN BACK TO SOVIETS FOR ARMS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. SUCH A MOVE WOULD MEAN END OF SADAT AND ALL MODERATES IN AREA, INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF OIL STATES. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY IF THIS IS WHAT U.S. LEADERS AND PUBLIC WANT TO SEE HAPPEN.

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4. COMMENT: ASNAJ MAY WELL HAVE BEEN POSTURING NOT ONLY FOR ME BUT FOR AMBASSADORS OF FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN WHO WERE ALSO STANDING BY. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN SENSING A MOUNTING FEELING OF CONCERN RE STATE OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TALKS AMONG MANY OF OUR PRO-WESTERN YEMENI CONTACTS. THUS, TO THAT EXTENT ASNAJ WAS REFLECTING ACCURATELY MOOD HERE IN SANA AMONG THOSE YEMENIS WHO FOLLOW REGIONAL MATTERS AND WHO FEAR A RESURGENCE OF SOVIET AND EXTREMIST INFLUENCE IN ARAB WORLD.
SCOTES

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